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### *President's Message*

Hello!

I have some great news to pass on to you. The RCNA Convention this July will be in person, as passed by the RNCA Executive last month. It will be terrific to finally have the chance to meet fellow members at the CAWMC breakfast and just catch up with everyone! So, when the registration form for the convention is published, please fill it in and send it in, that way we will be able to order the correct amount of breakfasts for the meeting. The CAWMC breakfast is scheduled for July 23rd starting at 8:00 am. The convention is being held from July 20 – 24 at the Delta Ottawa City Centre Hotel. There are some interesting tours to enjoy while at the convention too!

If you want to submit any items for the auction that takes place after the CAWMC Breakfast/Annual General Meeting, please contact Al Munro, our auctioneer. CAWMC will keep 20% of the final sale as commission, unless you request that all proceeds be directed to the association. Over the years there have been many a spirited bids on some of the auction lots and it is fun to watch the back and forth bidding.

I would like to thank Rob Osborne for stepping up and agreeing to run the "Wood of the Month" program. I know Rob will do a great job! I would like to thank R.K. who has ran the program for 28 years since its inception 38 years ago and has done a great job in managing it over that time.

Cheers.

**James**

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## *Featured Wood of the Month*

### The Battle of Vimy Ridge



This Month's wood is a gift from Jim Smith, from Likely BC.

The quantity issued are unknown.

Thank you, Jim!

*"Many historians and writers consider the Canadian victory at Vimy a defining moment for Canada, when the country emerged from under the shadow of Britain and felt capable of greatness. Canadian troops also earned a reputation as formidable, effective troops because of the stunning success. But it was a victory at a terrible cost, with more than 10,000 killed and wounded.*

*The Canadian Corps was ordered to seize Vimy Ridge in April 1917. Situated in northern France, the heavily-fortified seven-kilometre ridge held a commanding view over the Allied lines. The Canadians would be assaulting over an open graveyard since previous French attacks had failed with over 100,000 casualties.*

*To capture this difficult position, the Canadians would carefully plan and rehearse their attack. To provide greater flexibility and firepower in battle, the infantry was given specialist roles as machine-gunners, rifle-men, and grenade-throwers. These same soldiers underwent weeks of training behind the lines using models to represent the battlefield and new maps crafted from aerial photographs to guide their way. To bring men forward safely for the assault, engineers dug deep tunnels from the rear to the front. Despite this training and preparation, the key to victory would be a devastating artillery barrage that would not only isolate enemy trenches but provide a moving wall of high explosives and shrapnel to force the Germans to stay in their deep dugouts and away from their machine-guns. "Chaps, you shall go over exactly like a railroad train, on time, or you shall be annihilated," warned Canadian Corps commander Sir Julian Byng.*

*In the week leading up to the battle, Canadian and British artillery pounded the enemy positions on the ridge, killing and tormenting defenders. New artillery tactics allowed the gunners to first target, then destroy enemy positions. A nearly limitless supply of artillery shells and the new 106 fuse, which allowed shells to explode on contact, as opposed to burying themselves in ground,*

*facilitated the destruction of hardened defences and barbed wire. The Canadian infantry would be well supported when it went into battle with over 1,000 artillery pieces laying down withering, supportive fire.*

*Attacking together for the first time, the four Canadian divisions stormed the ridge at 5:30am on 9 April 1917. More than 15,000 Canadian infantries overran the Germans all along the front. Incredible bravery and discipline allowed the infantry to continue moving forward under heavy fire, even when their officers were killed. There were countless acts of sacrifice, as Canadians single-handedly charged machine-gun nests or forced the surrender of Germans in protective dugouts. Hill 145, the highest and most important feature of the Ridge, and where the Vimy monument now stands, was captured in a frontal bayonet charge against machine-gun positions. Three more days of costly battle delivered final victory. The Canadian operation was an important success, even if the larger British and French offensive, of which it had been a part, had failed. But it was victory at a heavy cost: 3,598 Canadians were killed and another 7,000 wounded.*



*The capture of Vimy was more than just an important battlefield victory. For the first time all four Canadian divisions attacked together: men from all regions of Canada were present at the battle. Brigadier-General A.E. Ross declared after the war, “in those few minutes I witnessed the birth of a nation.”*

*Vimy became a symbol for the sacrifice of the young Dominion. In 1922, the French government ceded to Canada in perpetuity Vimy Ridge, and the land surrounding it. The gleaming white marble and haunting sculptures of the Vimy Memorial, unveiled in 1936, stand as a terrible and poignant reminder of the 11,285 Canadian soldiers killed in France who have no known graves.”*

<https://www.warmuseum.ca/the-battle-of-vimy-ridge/> March 17, 2022

## **REMEMBER THESE?**

They are still available.

Cost? One article for your *Timber Talk*, 220-250 words, with pictures, or not.



Tell us about your favorite wood, how you discovered a variety, how and why you started collecting woods, etc.

Your first article will earn you a black wood, your second article, a red one, etc. Collect all eight, all in very limited edition!

## *Chips from the Woodpile .... By Dave Gillespie*



Norm Pullen, both a collector and dealer from Maine reportedly assembled what was regarded as the finest Canadian Large Cent collection. A complete set of Canadian Large Cents, including major varieties, consists of forty-eight coins. Sadly, it was liquidated in 1996. If you are a

Canadian Large Cent collector, it would be interesting to check your collection. Just how many are you missing?

I am sure that from time to time you have heard, in conversation, someone use the expression, "My Two Cents Worth". The expression dates back to the nineteenth century, when if you wanted to write an opinion to the editor of a newsletter or complain to a politician the cost of mailing the letter was a two cent stamp. It is never too late for your two cents worth to be heard. You have a voice and Timber Talk can be your medium by sitting down and writing to the Editor about your experiences, your likes or dislikes within the hobby or an unexpected wooden money find whilst attending a coin show or bourse after searching through boxes on a dealer's table. Or maybe you were offered or received a wood that you needed at a local coin club meeting and the experience is worth sharing. With today's technology it will no longer cost you the price of a stamp. The Editor will be happy to receive "your two cents worth" by e-mail.

This brings us to the end of what I have reviewed in issues of Timber Talk and perceived as highlights from the start in 1975, the inception of C.A.W.M.C. through to December of 2011. This was the last issue in the package donated by Judy Blackman, although I am sure that many of you have saved some or all of your copies of the newsletter from that time on.

In closing, one of the articles from the fall of 2011 raised the question: Do you know which is more valuable: Two Quarters or a Dollar? Well, as the story goes: A young boy enters a barbershop and the barber whispers to a customer sitting in his chair, "This is the dumbest kid in the word. Watch while I prove it!" The barber puts a dollar bill in one hand and two quarters in the other. He calls the boy over and asks, "Which hand would you like son?" The boy takes the two quarters, leaving the dollar bill behind and walks out of the barbershop heading across the



street to the corner store. "What did I tell you", said the barber, "the kid never learns". Later, when the customer finishes getting haircut and leaves the barber's shop, he sees the young boy outside of the corner store with an ice cream cone in hand. He says "Hey son! May I ask you a question? Why did you take the two quarters and not the dollar bill?" The boy licks the ice cream cone with a smile on his face and says to the man, "if I take the dollar, the game is over!" Do you think that it might have made a difference if the boy was a C.A.W.M.C. member and he was offered two wooden nickels or the dollar bill instead?



I hope that the information provided in these articles from 1975 to 2011 have been an education and history lesson to newer members and a looking back experience for others. I have already reached out to one of our former editors for more recent issues of the newsletter so that

the history can continue. Timber Talk is certainly a true insight into the hard work, dedication, and passion of many members throughout the years to create and mould this great organization of wooden money collectors known as "Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors". I also hope that you continue with your membership and assist the Editor with articles and stories to share with others.

*Til next time ..... Let the Chips lie where they fall. Dave Gillespie*

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*Answer to the quiz question of April 2022*

**Q.** What Prince George Spruce Dollar has the picture of a football player on it? And in what year was it issued?

**A.** Grey Cup issue in 1963.

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From the Editor to all our Francophone and Francophile members

It is always my pleasure to receive articles in French, and I don't mind translating them for Timber Talk. All your articles are welcome.

I also invite you to consult *The Numismate Francophone.*, a monthly publication of the Association de Numismates Francophones du Canada. It is free on the ANFC's website [anfc.info](http://anfc.info).

## B. C. ORCHARD WOODS OF KELOWNA, BRITISH COLUMBIA KEY CHAIN VARIETIES

AL MUNRO, FRCNA, LMCAWMC, LMCNS

In 1990 my wife Marion and I attended the Canadian Numismatic Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia. While on the city tour with other delegates I asked various merchants if they had ever run across any wooden tokens. One of the responses was a merchant showing me a wood he had picked up that summer in Kelowna, B.C. The wood was issued by the B. C. Orchard Industry Museum and featured an apple. I subsequently visited the museum and over the years identified the following wood issued by the museum:

9410-008 Pear 1991 Green; 9410-009 Apple 1991 Black; 9420-010 Peach 1991 Brown; 9410-011 Museum Building 1991 Black; 9410-012 Cherry 1992 Red; 9410-013 Cannery Reunion 1992 Brown.

9410-015 Apple Fair 1993 Red; 9410-016 Orchardists Reunion 1993 Green; 9410-017 Irrigation Reunion 1993 Blue (holed).



Obviously either my memory failed me, or the date of the apple wood recorded as issued in 1991 was actually issued in 1990.

Over the years I discovered several of the museum woods were holed and were sold as key chains. At first, I thought that the woods were the regular woods that were drilled. However, when I compared the drilled woods to the undrilled wood in my collection, I noted that the woods were actually made from different dies. All the drilled woods show the museum address whereas the undrilled woods do not. Too date I have identified the following drilled woods: for 9410-017 Irrigation Reunion, 9410-022 Orchardists Reunion, 9410-023 Apple Fair; Pictures of both varieties of the three chain woods are shown below.

I have not discussed the drilled woods with the Museum in Kelowna and therefore do not know if key chain versions were issued for all their woods, nor do I know when they issued.

*Continues on page 8*

# Spruce Dollars-a passion

by André Paradis (CAWMC no.630)

Before starting this article, I would like to point out that I had promised myself that I would no longer write anything in a specialized newsletter. The reason is very simple, the lack of time. I hope that these few words will be useful to you and through this forum, I must thank the CAWMC for its remarkable dynamism. I was unable to refuse to respond to the email from France Waychison who, as you know, does not count her hours for our greatest happiness. "Can you write me an article?" she asked me. I'm going for it.



My knowledge of spruce dollars comes down to a few snippets of words found on the web or elsewhere. "Spruce dollars date from the late 1950's and were produced by the Prince George Chamber of Commerce and for other groups including the BC Elks Association, Kiwanis Clubs and the Northern Interior Lumbermen's Association. They could be used as currency at select Prince George businesses" (Ref.1).

In the January 2022 issue of Timber Talk, Vic Agha tells us that there are more than 150 different spruce dollars, issued between 1958 and 2007. They were used for promotional purposes with different themes in the spotlight each year. Their face value was established at \$1, increased to \$1.50 in 1980 and eventually to \$3.

Many of you know that I salivate as soon as I discover an object that refers to Expo67 or the Confederation of Canada in 1967. You can imagine that I will talk about the items issued during this period to underline the Confederation of Canada of 1967 on Spruce Dollars. According to Norm Belsten's catalogue, there would be 10 different ones, SD-038a to SD-047. I hunt for the eight that I am still missing, and all the other dollars, of course!

My passion began the day after an auction organized in 2020 by another club, the Canadian Centennial Collector's Club (CCCC). I had a friendly competition with another member to acquire the first 5 spruce dollars of my collection, without knowing their value. I probably paid three times too much. Beware of auction craze.



